

Sidment 4756

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1938.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31ST., 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

The Report conforms as closely as possible with the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Health circular of October 25th, 1938.

SECTION A. - Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	• •	• •	11242 acres.
Total Population	• •	• •	8414.
Number of Inhabite	ed Houses	• •	2813
Rateable Value		• •	£90467•
Sum represented by	g a penny rate	• •	£347.

The district is a popular health resort and seaside watering place and has a large proportion of retired individuals amongst its resident population. There is an all the year round season for visitors and a short summer season covering the period of school holidays when there is a great influx of visitors.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births. (Legitimate	Total. Male. Female. 85. 33. 52. 3. 2. 1.
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	10.45
Stillbirths. (Legitimate	Total. Male. Female. 4. 1. 3. 43.48
Deaths	Total. Male. Female. 75.
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	15.54
Deaths from puerperal causes.	
No.29. Puerperal sepsis	
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still)	

21.74

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Male.	Female.
(Legitimate	2.	1.
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births : Death rate Legitimate infants per 1,000		34.09
Legitimate live births		34.09
Deaths from Canser (all ages)		. 23.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		. Nil.

SECTION B. - General Provision of Health Services

(a) Council Officials:

Health Department.

Medical Officer: Sanitary Inspector:

E.L. Perry, D.S.O., D.P.H. Stanley T. Chard, A.R.S.I.

Nursing Services:

Queens Nurse:

Miss E. Salaman, S.R.N.

District Nurses:

Miss L. Pocock, SoR.N., S.C.N.

Miss M. Williams, S.C.N.

- (b) (i) Laboratory Facilities: Laboratory facilities are provided by the Devon County Council Laboratory.
 - (ii) Ambulance Facilities: There is an excellent and adequate ambulance service provided by the Sidmouth Division of the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade which possesses a Motor Ambulance.
 - (iii) Nursing in the Home, Clinic and Hospitals.
 The Queens Nurse, together with the District Nurses attend to cases requiring nursing in their own homes. These nurses also attend the Child Welfare Clinics and provide ante-natal services. The up-to-date local hospital, the Victoria Cottage Hospital, provides facilities for every type of case requiring hospital treatment. It is affiliated to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital. Infectious cases are by arrangement with the City of Exeter admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital,

SECTION C. - Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1.

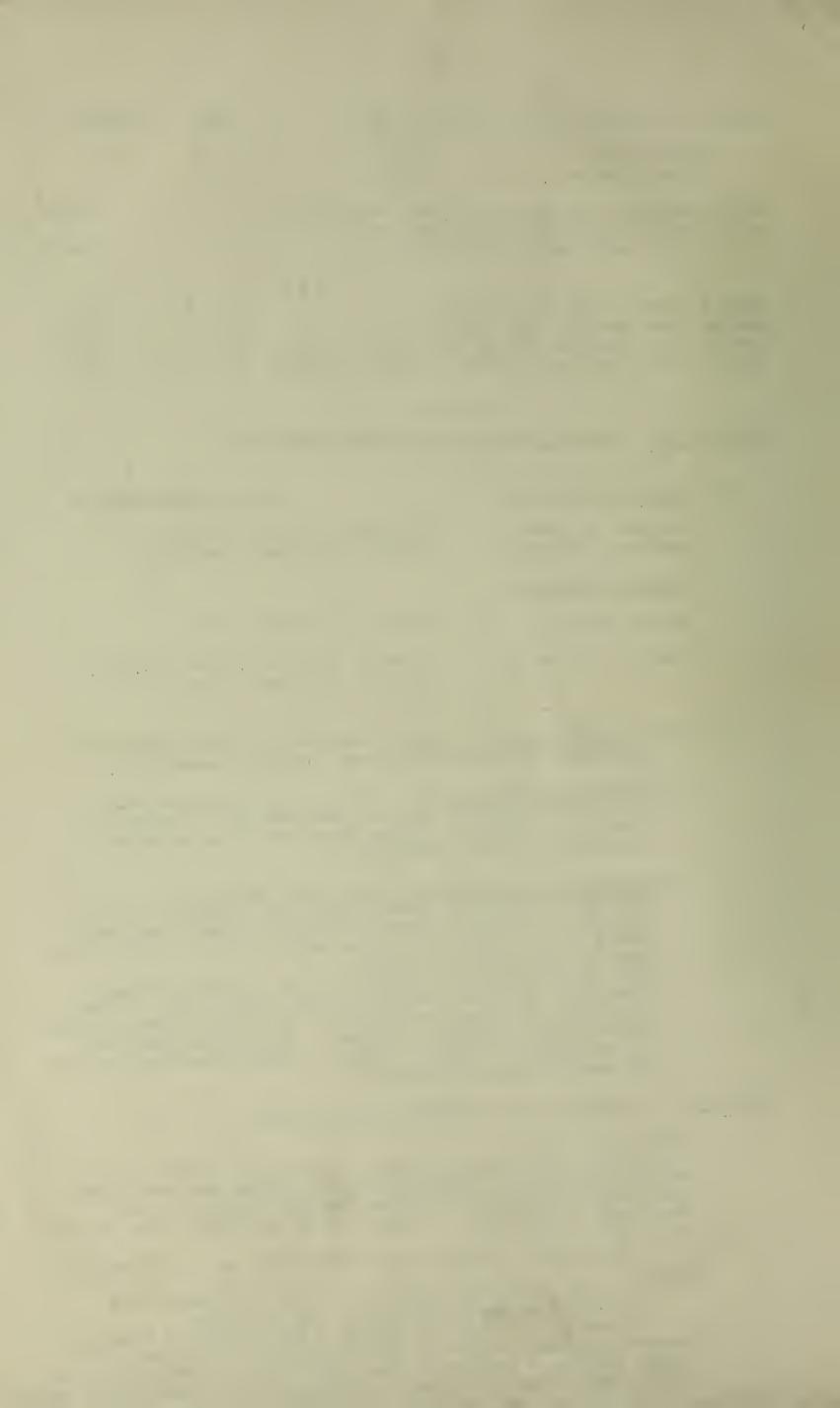
(i) <u>Water</u>. The Wolversleigh spring estimated to yield a dry weather supply of 40,000 gallons per diem has been taken into supply as have also some smaller springs in the Horseshoe Plantation. These latter may yield over 15,000 gallons.

Extensive additions have been made to your Council's mains

(a) to carry the water of the above springs; and

(b) to improve distribution and pressure.

From your Council's system I have taken 14 samples for bacteriological report by the County Bacteriologist. Of these samples 5 were very good and 9 did not come up to the usual high standard. These numbers are of course not in ratio



to the purity of the supply. The findings on the various

springs are very consistent.

The Pinn Hill (including Wolversleigh) springs and the Barnard's Farm springs which have a dry weather flow of 315,000 gallons per diem consistently yield water of a high standard of purity. They are all deep springs in the green-sand.

Only once has any of these springs been found unsatisfactory and that was an occasion when work was being done on one of the intake pipes involving disturbance of the

soil.

The Burscombe spring which has a dry weather flow of 50,000 gallons yields water of a high standard of purity in dry weather but after rain the water is turbid and unsatisfactory bacteriologically. On rain falling it has to be cut out of supply. In collaboration with your Consulting Engineers I have endorsed their suggestion that it be treated by pressure filtration and chlorination. The carrying out of the necessary work has been sanctioned.

The numerous Peak Hill and Stintway Springs which have a total dry weather flow of 42,000 gallons yield water which is unsatisfactory bacteriologically after heavy rain. These springs come from the somewhat shallow strata of greensand of Mutter's Moor and the contamination has its source in rabbit runs, etc. The nearer part of the catchment area of these springs is enclosed manor land but it has to be borne in mind that the public are now visiting Mutter's Moor in ever increasing numbers. These springs which are always cut out after heavy rain constituted the original supply of the first waterworks which displaced the wells which had previously supplied the Town.

The large uncovered filter at Peak Hill was not functioning properly. Owing to the growth of algae the surface of the filter had frequently to be disturbed and this rendered satisfactory use of the filter very difficult. I therefore recommended that the filter be covered and your Council sanctioned the work which has since been

completed entirely to my satisfaction.

The soft waters of your Council's supply are passed over linestone chippings to neutralise their plumbosolvent properties. I specially tested the Stintway supply last September. Before the limestone was renewed I took two samples, one of the raw water and one from a house on the The latter sample was the first draw-off in the morning after the water had stood all night in the household pipes. I submitted these samples with very full details, to Dr. Suckling of the Counties Public Health Laboratories of Queen Victoria Street, London. Dr. Suckling reported that the raw water was actively plumbosolvent with a pH of 5.5, free carbonic acid 1.5 per 100,000 and alkalinity as calcium carbonate 0.4 parts per 100,000. In the household sample he found no trace of lead and he found the pH 6.4, free carbonic acid 0.66 and alkalinity as calcium carbonate 1.0 parts per 100,000. He was however of opinion that treatment for the correction of acidity and corrosive action had not been adequate and efficient and that the pH value of the water should be 7.5 or above. After I had taken these samples fresh limestone chippings were added to the filter. The effect of this has since been tested and found satisfactory after a lapse of six months. Limestone chippings will now be added every six months as a routine and the result tested.

Sidmouth is rapidly outgrowing its water supply. During the last four years new domestic consumers have been connected at an annual average of just over 100 whilst during the same period metered consumption has nearly doubled. There is every indication that the demand for

water will continue to increase.



With an increased supply springs which are not up to a high standard could be cut out for a longer period after rain. Furthermore in any town where the oldest parts are lowlying and are also the most congested with buildings it is unsound practice to cut off the supply and so reduce the pressure in the mains. The occasions on which supply is cut off should be the absolute minimum necessitated by essential work on the mains. This is so now but an increasing demand may make it a difficult rule to keep to in times of drought.

In March I accompanied the representative of your Consulting Engineers on a detailed inspection of all existing works and on an exhaustive search for any springs that might be acquired and added to your supply. I agree with the finding of your Consulting Engineers that no springs remain in the valley which it would be practical

to add to existing supply.

Your Consulting Engineers propose that water should be taken from the Sid near Wooton where an additional supply of 200,000 gallons, capable of expansion could be obtained.

The Sid water will require troatment by filtration and

chlorination.

I strongly recommend that the Sid water be taken as I consider it is necessary in the interests of the public health to secure a large increase of supply as early as

possible.

As regards the unsatisfactory privately owned water supply of the Core Hill Estate a standpipe from your Council's main has been placed at a convenient spot below the Estate and householders on the Estate are able to obtain drinking water therefrom. If your Council's supply is increased by taking water from the Sid it will be feasible to supply water in bulk at a point from which the Estate can pump it to their existing reservoir.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

The growth of the Town of recent years with the consequent great increase in the excretal content of the sewage render urgent the undertaking of all measures possible that will favour the rapid destruction of excretal matter when it passes into the sea. The excretal content of the sewage is highest when the Town is fullest in July, August and September and these are also the months when there are the greatest numbers of bathers,

Three proposals in regard to the outfall system

have been under consideration of your Council:-

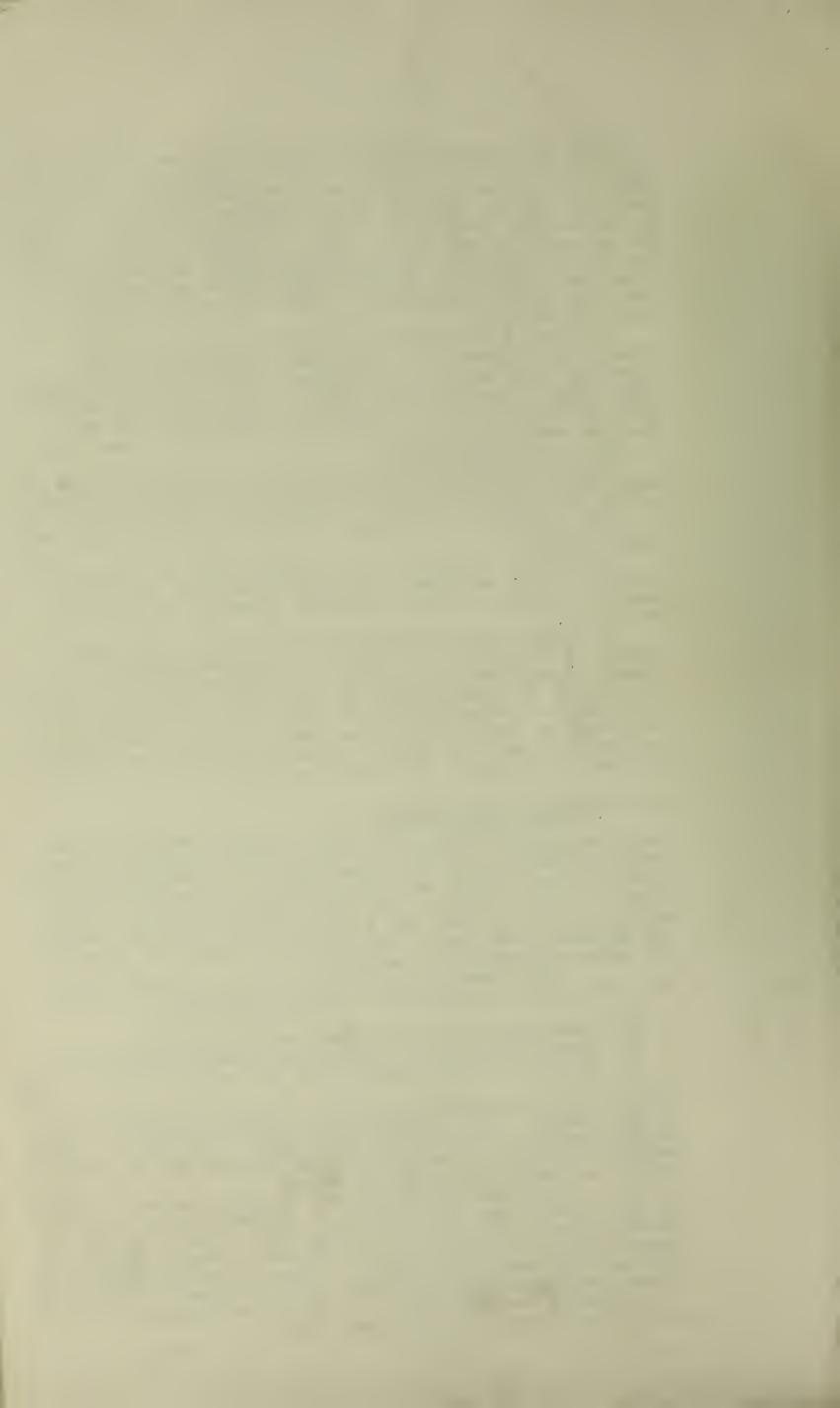
(a) Enlargement of the storage accommodation.

(b) Extension of the outfall sewer farther into the sea.

(c) Mechanical disintegration of the solids of the sewage.

Each of these measures can be taken in hand independently of the others. (a) is purely an engineering work related to the discharge and flow of the sewage. (b) and (c) are measures related to the rapidity of destruction of excretal matter in contact with the sea water.

The destruction of intestinal organisms is rapid if the seawater can get at them. Disintegration greatly favours this. The results of the tests carried out by the Bournemouth Corporation on disintegrated sewage adequately diluted were very satisfactory, Your Council have with my strong recommendation proceeded with the work of installing a mechanical disintegrator. It is a work which can be completed in a comparatively short time.



I also very urgently recommend to your Council the much larger undertaking of the extension of the outfall sewer so that the outlet may be several feet under water even at low tide. At present the outlet is at water level at very low tide and though of course no discharge is allowed at or near the time of low water this is not satisfactory. Every foot below the surface makes a great deal of difference in this important matter of dilution. The dilution is not less than proportional to the cube of the depth of the outlet. If the outlet is under water at low tide dilution should be satisfactory at higher states of the tide as the tidal rise is roughly twelve feet.

The septic tank installation which deals with the sewage of Salcombe Regis village and which was referred to in my last Annual Report as not functioning satisfactorily, has been dealt with. A storm water drain which had been connected to the dewer was diverted and the septic tank, the clinker contact bed and the percolation trench which has been constructed in addition are now functioning most satisfactorily.

2. Rivers and Streams.

Action has been taken to prevent the throwing of refuse into the river Sid. Notices have been posted warning against the offence and a warden has been employed to patrol the river.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

No alteration to report.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) Shops & Offices.

Action taken in one case for improvement of sanitary accommodation.

(v) Camping Sites.

Camping has not yet reached considerable proportions in this district.

One licensed site was used for a few weeks only.

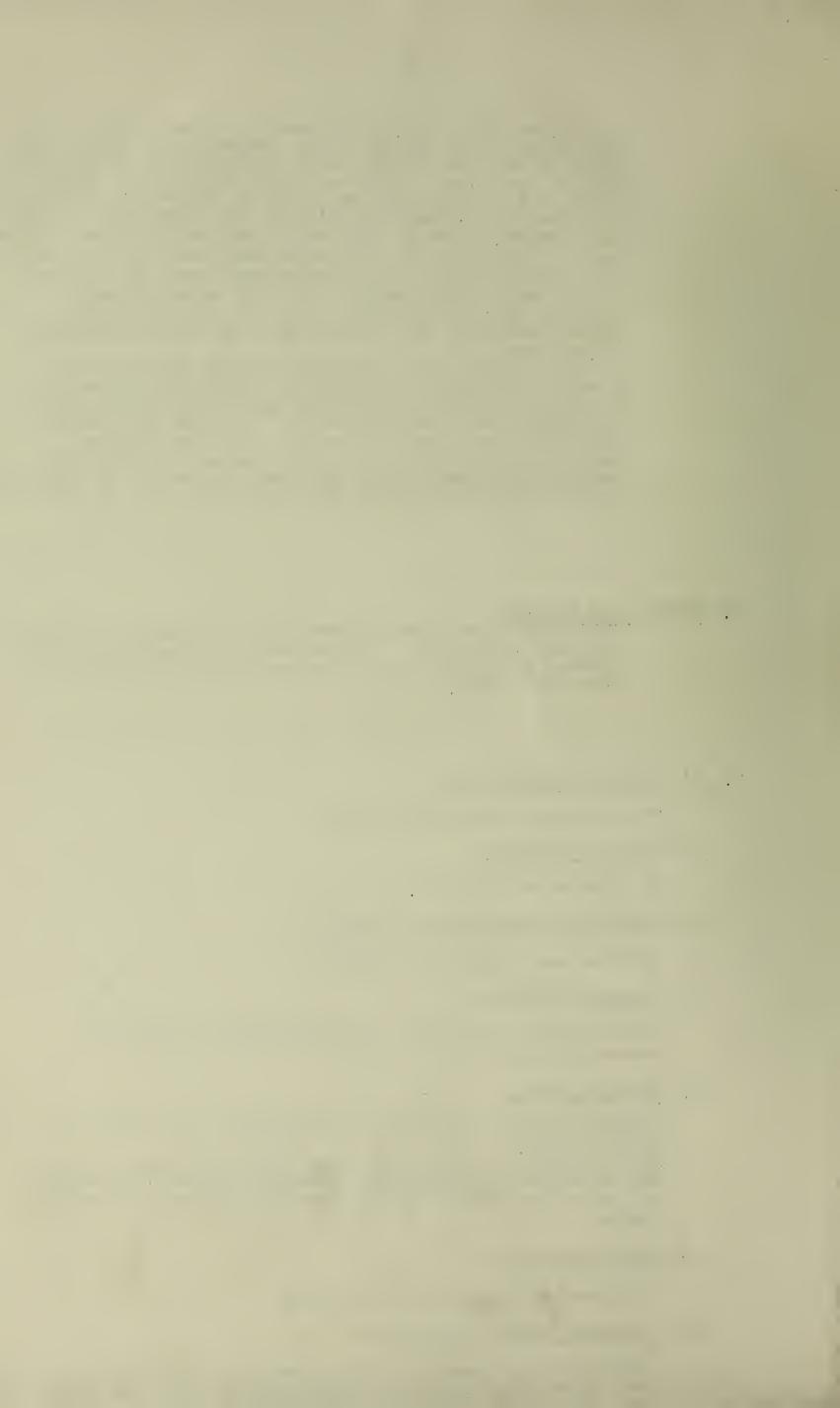
Six sites were licensed and I estimate that at the height of the season there were not more than 80 persons in these camps.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action has arisen.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths cr pools in this district. There are privately owned and managed medical baths which are well kept.



3. (viii) Eradication of bed bugs.

No action for the eradication of bed bugs has been called for. Disinfestation when necessary is carried out by the Council and not by a contractor. The method employed is stripping and thorough spraying with Zaldecide followed by fumigation with Cescones.

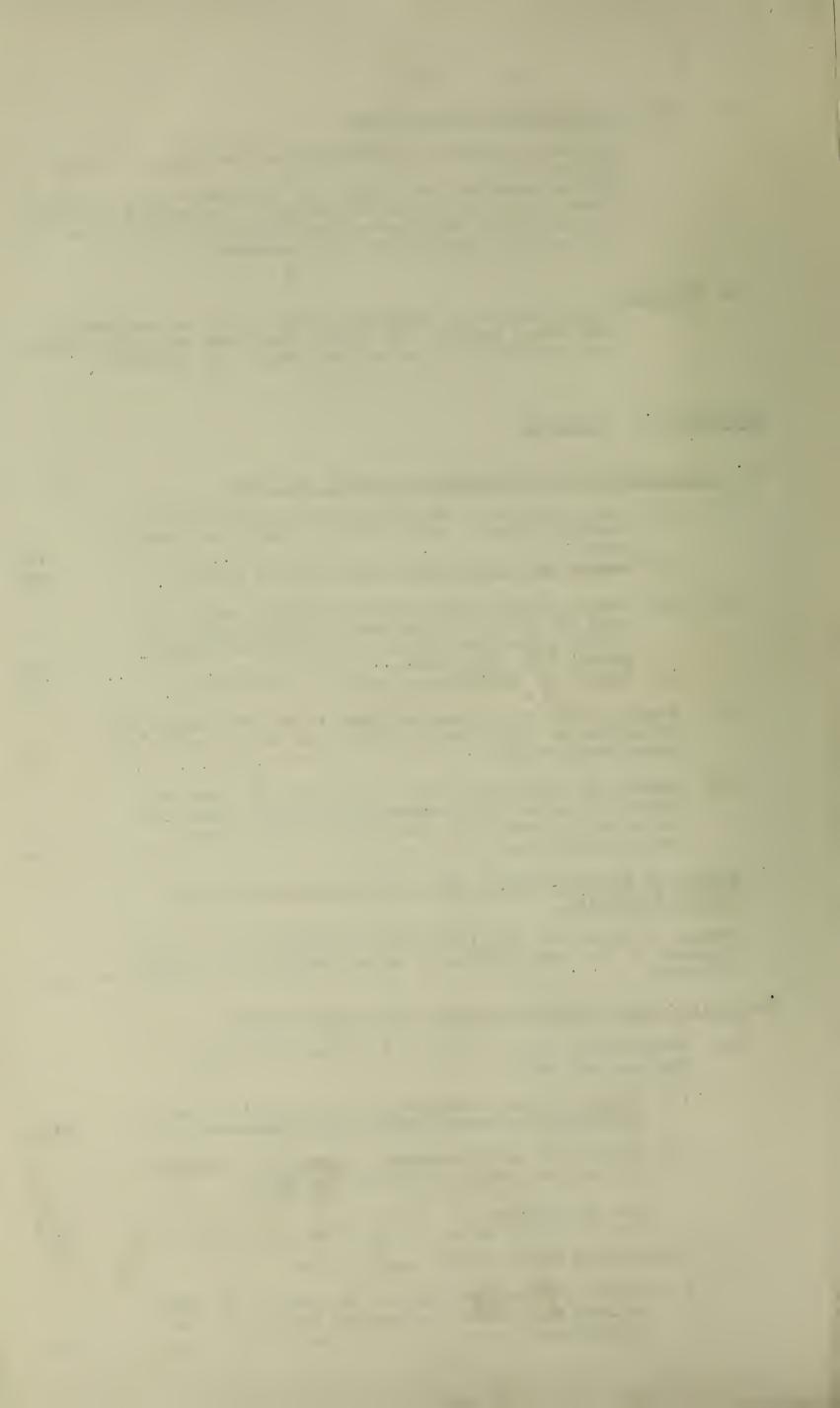
Schools. 4.

These have been inspected with regard to sanitation and water supply. No action has been necessary beyond the exclusion of infectious cases and contacts.

SECTION D. - Housing.

SEC	CTION D	Housing.	
٦.	Inspectio	on of Dwelling-houses during the Year.	
1.	(1) (a) (b)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93. 199.
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub- head (1) above) which were inspected and re- corded under the Housing Consolidated Regula- tions, 1925 and 1932	34. 93.
	dan hum	ber of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so gerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for an habitation	11.
	(4) Num	ber of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those re- red to under the preceding sub-head) found not be in all respects reasonably fit for human oitation	84.
2.		of Defects during the Year without Service of	
2 (formal N	lotices:-	
	Number of sequence officers	of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in con- e of informal action by Local Authority or their	75.
3.		under Statutory Powers during the Year:-	
	(a) Pro	oceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the using Act 1936.	
	(1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
	(2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
		(a) By owners	ll. Nil.
		roceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be	Nil.

remedied......

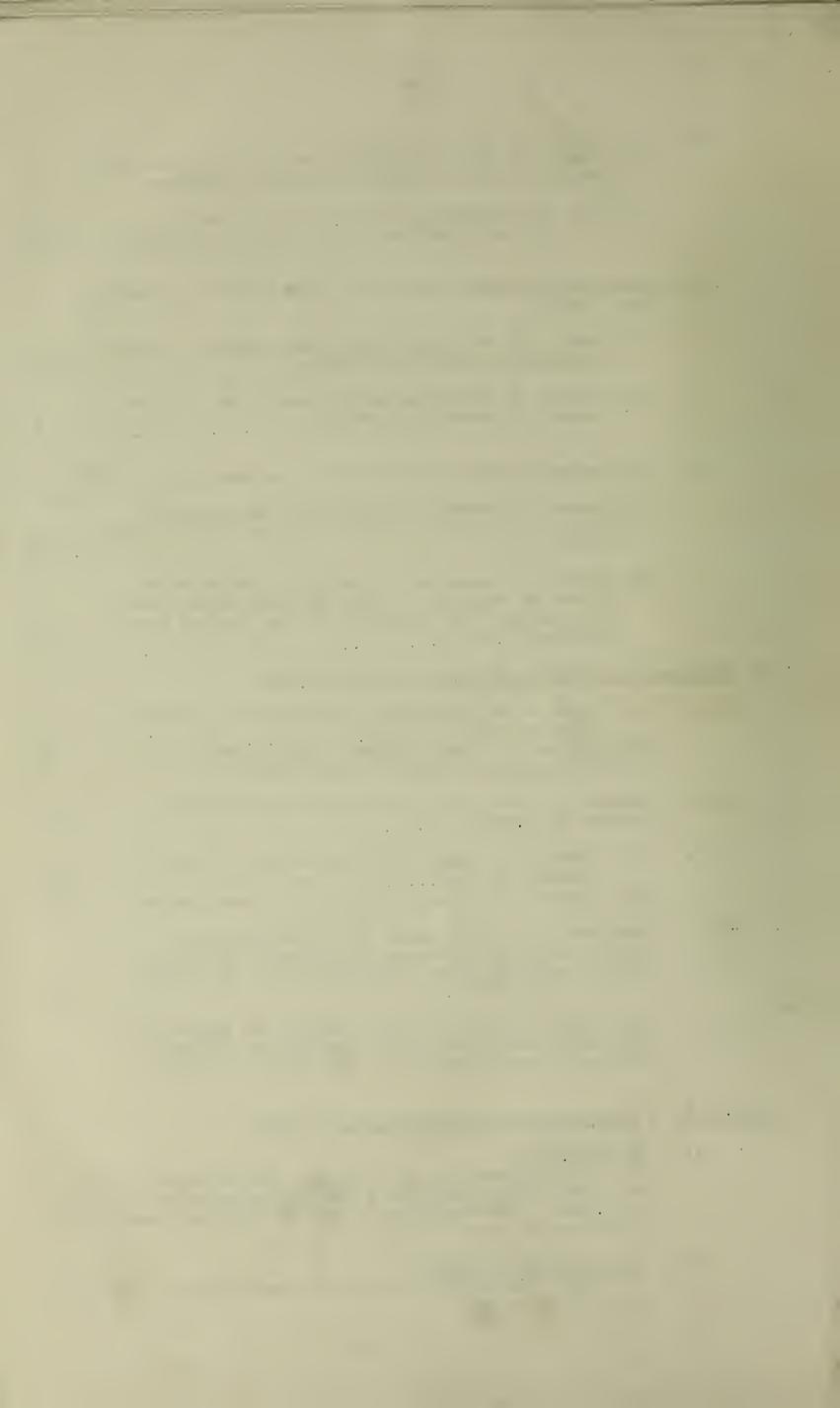


(b)	(2)	Number remedie	of dwel d after	ling-ho	ouses ce of	in whi	ch defe	ects wer	e
		(a) By (b) By	owners Local	Author	ity ir	defau	lt of	owners.	l. Nil.
(c) -	Pro	ceedings , 1936:	under	section	ns ll	and 13	of th	e Housir	ng
	(1)	Number Demolit	of dwell	lling-h ders we	ouses re mad	in res	spect o	f which	Nil.
	(2)	Number suance	of dwell	lling-h olit i on	ouses Order	demoli	shed i	n pur-	4.
(d) -	. Pro	ceedings	under	sectio	n 12 d	of the	Housin	g Act,1	936:
			n resp	ect of	wnich	•••••	ig orde		Nil
	(2)	datanmi	in response	ect of he tene	which ment	or room	ng orde n havin	L.P. MOLO	
4. Housin	ng Ac	t, 1936	- Part	iv C	vercr	owding	<u>•</u>		
(a) -	1 =) Number of the sill Number of t	ne year	amilies	dwel	ling t	herein	• • • • •	8. 8. 53.
(b) -	Nu du	mber of cring the	new ca	ses of	overc	rowdin	g repor	ted	Nil.
(c) -) Numbo duri Li) Numb	ng the	ases of year		• • • • • •	• • • • •		Nil.
(d) -	ho Tu	articula ouses ha ocal Aut ent of o	ve agai	in become to	me ove aken s	steps f	or the	abate-	Nil.
(e) -		ny other ng condi f Health	+ 5000 1	120 MO	ach li	THE THE CT	LUCAL VI	T T O O T	
SECTION E	<u>.</u> -	Inspecti	ion and	Superv	ision	of Foo	od.		
(a)		Milk Sup The continue effected position	inspe ed this d. The	year a Sanita	ind a iry In	steady	improv	ries ha ement i	s peing

Meat and Other Foods.

See the Report of the Sanitary Inspector and also the table below:-

(b) -



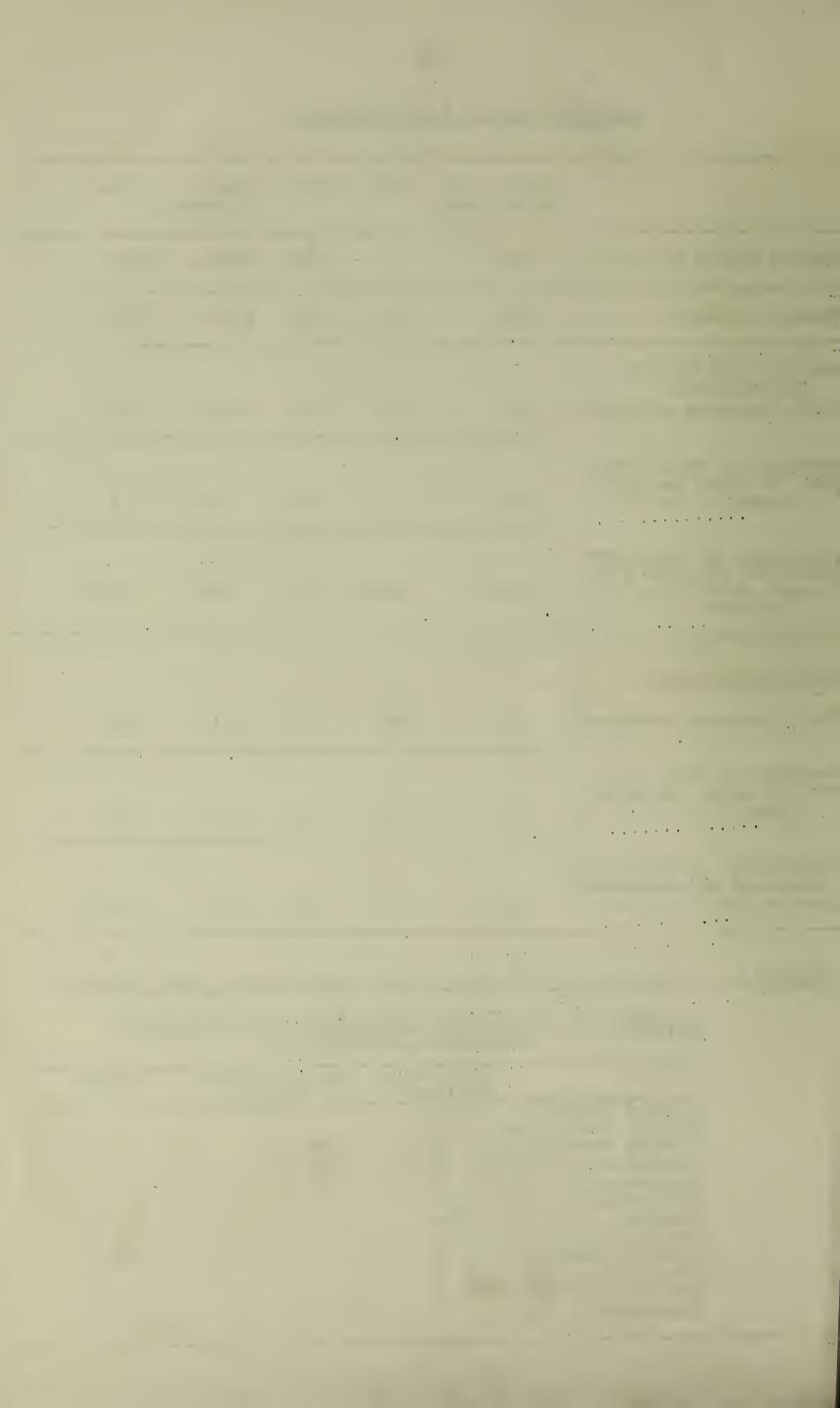
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	931.	8.	528.	4462.	1519.
Number inspected	609.	8.	421.	3113.	1125.
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS. Whole carcases condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	. 10.	1.	Nil.	16.	4.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber culosis	1.04%	1.25%	Nil.	.51%	. 35%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. Whole carcases condemne	d Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	31.
Percentage of the numbinspected affected with tuberculosis	h	Nil.	Níl.	Nil.	2.75%.

SECTION F .- Prevalence of and control over Infectious & other Diseases.

Incidence of Notifiable Disease during the Year 1938, Incidence (Excluding Tuberculosis).

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever Enteric Fever (i cluding Parathyp Pneumonia Dysentery Chickenpox Measles Scabies Whooping Cough Impetigo Ophthalmia Neona	n- oid) 3. 2. 3. 22184 1.	6. 3.	2.
Ringworm			



The children of this District were affected by the countrywide epidemic of Measles, 184 cases being reported by school teachers. It is of interest that no case had been reported throughout the previous year.

Three cases of Typhoid were notified, all confirmed bacteriologically (Bacillus Typhosus). The source of infection was not traced.

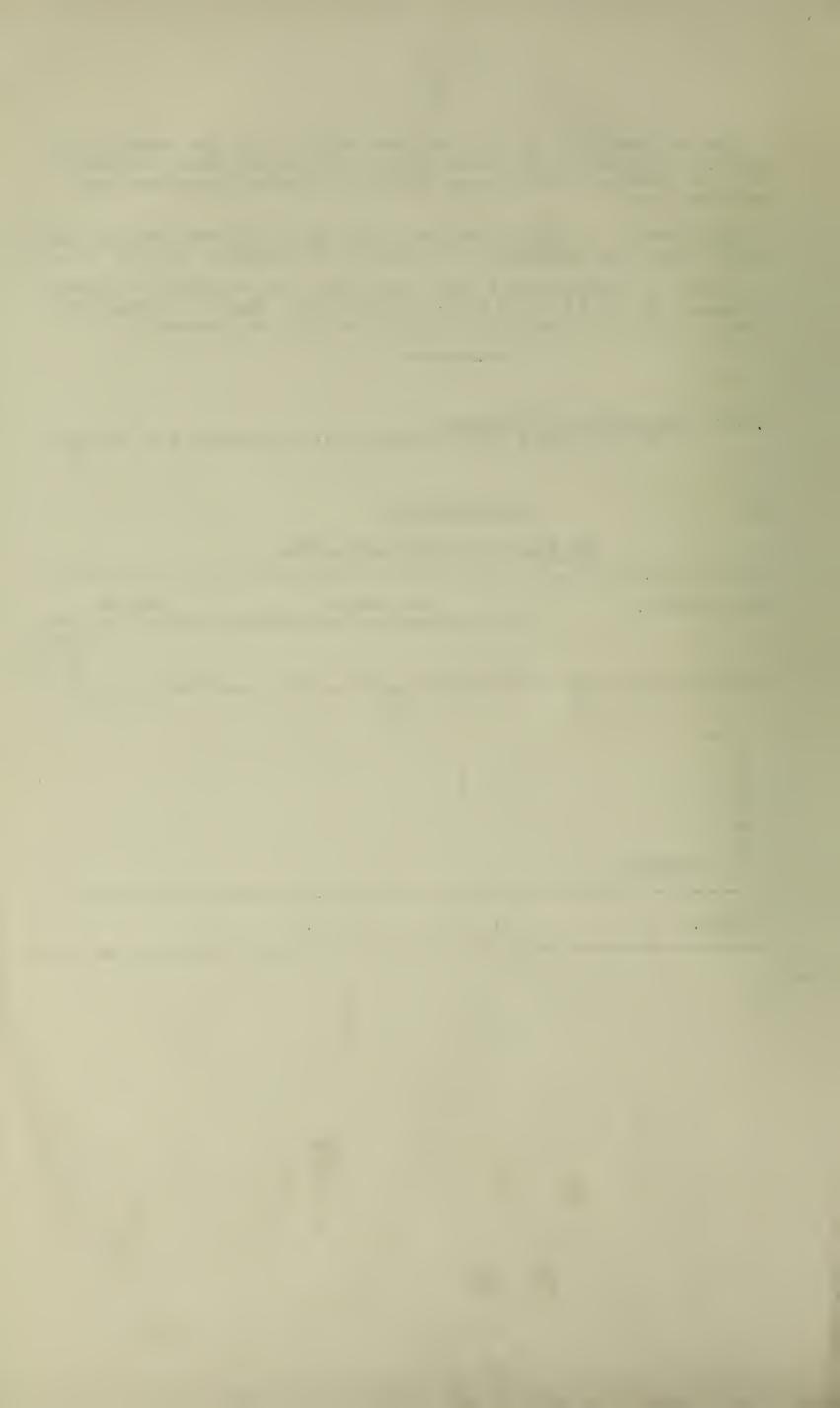
Cases of Scarlet Fever when conditions are suitable are nursed at home. Out of 14 cases 8 were isolated and nursed at home while 6 were sent to the Isolation Hospital at Whipton, Exeter.

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness.
One very mild case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality. 1938.

Age	Periods.	Respi	Ne ratory	w Cases Non-Re	spira	tory.Resp	Dea pirat	ne:	PDTT.
		М.	F.	М.	F.	M .	F.		ory,
0		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
5 15	-	- -	ī	-	1 -	-	-	-	-
25 35	-	1 3	1 -	-	1	1	-	=	1 mm 1 mm 4 h
45 55 65	-	- 1	- -	- - -	-	- -	-	-	
Tot	als.	5.	2.	· ·	3.	1.	-	-	1



APPENDIX II.

Statistics Provided by the Registrar-General.

Total Deaths 1938 130.

				2	
	Influenza	• •	-	1.	
9.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	e •	ī.		
10.	Other Tuberculosis.	• •		1.	
13.	Cancer.	• •	9,	14.	
	Diabetes.	• •	1.	2.	
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage.etc.	• •	3.	3.	
	Heart Disease.	• •	9.	23.	
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases.	• •	8.	12.	
	Bronchitis.	• • •	••	1.	
20,	Pneumonia.	• •	6.	4.	
	Appendicitis.	• •	1.	•••	
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	• •	2.	~ 1	
26.	Other Liver Diseases.	• •	1.	••	
28.	Nephritis.	• •	2.	2.	
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases.	• •	-	2.	
32.	Senility.	• •	1	ĩ.	
33.	Suicide.	• •	-	1.	
34.	Other Violence.	• •	3.	3. 5.	
	Other Defined Diseases.	• •	7.	5.	
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	• •	1.	1.	

Estimated Resident Population..... 8414. Comparability Factor..... 0.74.

General Register Office, Somerset House, London. W.C.2.

Causes of Death.

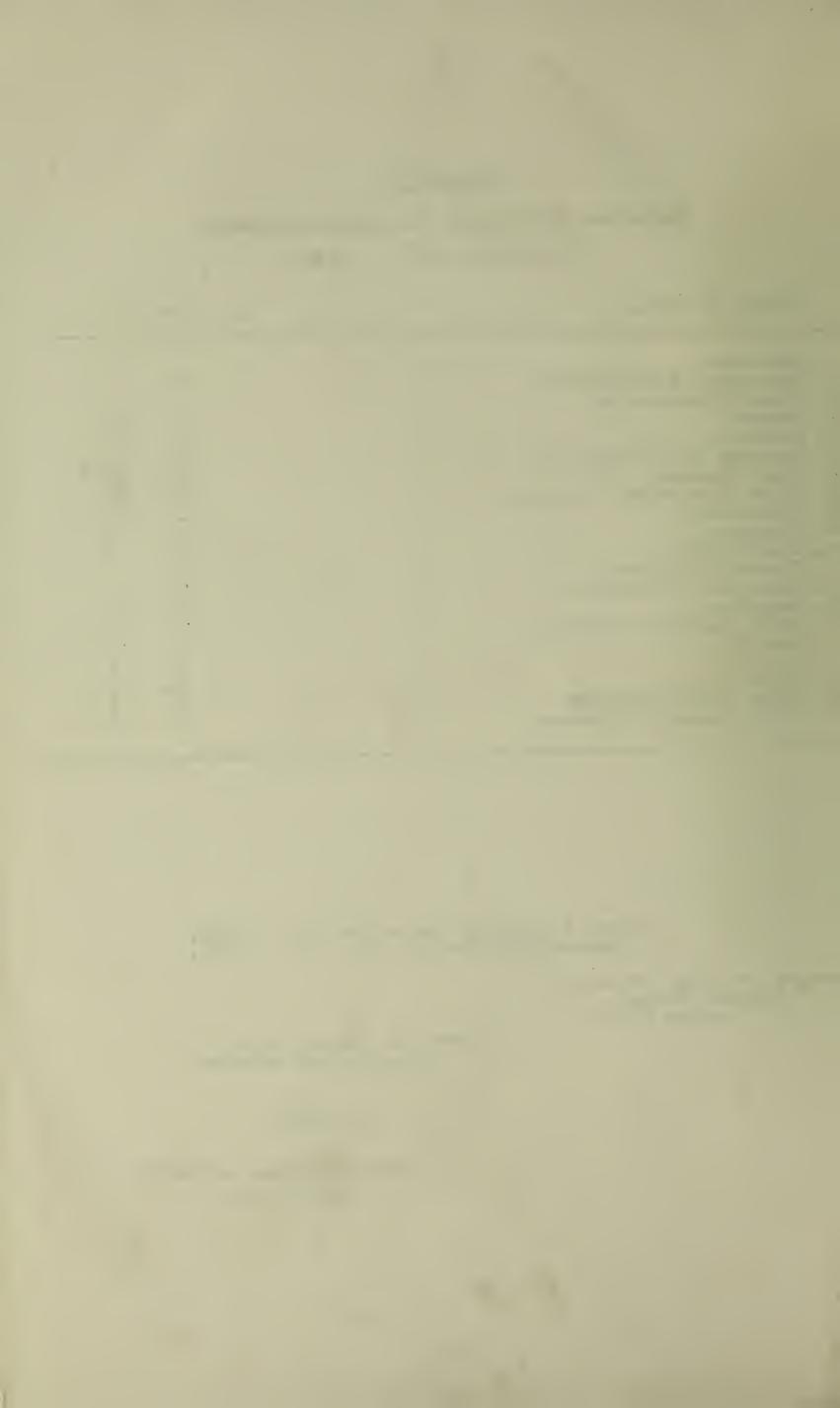
I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant,

E.L.PERRY.

Medical Officer of Health.

M.

F.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST.DECEMBER,

1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS of the SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the work of my department,

I have confined my remarks to the more important phases of the work, and more detailed information will be found in the tabulated statements.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the Council and especially the Members of the Public Health Committee for the consideration given to the various matters that have arisen in my monthly reports.

Your obedient servant,

STANLEY T. CHARD.

HOUSING.

Steady progress has been made during the year in the general

housing conditions of the working classes.

Practically all the old insanitary houses have been demolished or closed for human habitation and attention is now being directed to carrying out necessary works of reconstruction or repair to those

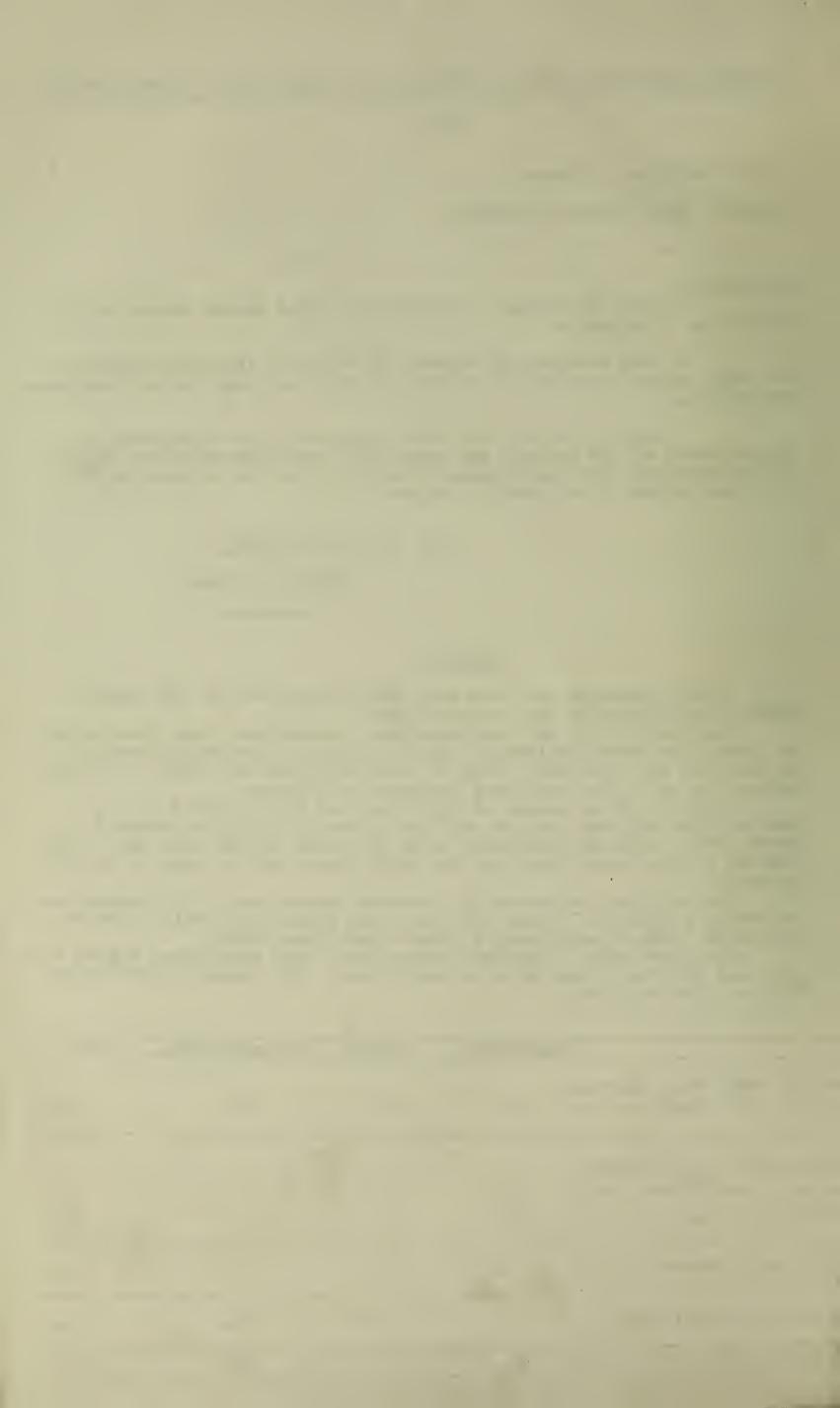
houses not up to the necessary standard of fitness.

A considerable amount of this work has been carried out by owners after informal notice only and where difficulties arose I found that a personal interview with the owner on the site and a discussion of the works entailed, was sufficient for the work to be put

in hand. The original programme of Clearance Areas was for 45 houses comprised in 8 schemes. These have all been demolished, but a further

two small schemes comprising 5 houses have been added. Also five more individual houses have been demolished during the year and 22 houses have been reconditioned. The summary below shows the position to date:-

Dem	olished	Closed.	Reconditioned.	Total.
Houses dealt with previous to this year	19.	9.	27.	55.
Houses dealt with during 1938.				
Clearance Areas	23.	**	•	28.
Individual Houses	4.	gants	-	4.
Houses Reconditioned	edicalinini di disensi di disensi su di suda di didensi su di di didensi di d Carb		24.	24.
Total to date	51.	9.	51.	111.



COWSHEDS & DAIRIES.

Progress has been maintained during the year in bringing more cowsheds into line with modern conditions. One new shed has been completed and two more reconstructed, whilst several more are in hand. Regular inspections have been made of all Registered premises.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS.

There are now two producers of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk and eight "Accredited" producers. This is an increase of four "Accredited" producers over last year. Three of the above licensed producers are on the Ministry of Agriculture's list of Attested Herds.

MILK SAMPLES.

No. of samples passed under Milk (Special Designations) Order No. of other samples passed	43。 34。 77.
No. of samples failed under Milk (Special Designations) Order. No. of other samples failed	12. <u>43.</u> <u>55</u> .
TOTAL NUMBER TAKEN	132.
Percantage of passes of total taken	58.3%.
Tuberculosis.	
No. of samples found to be "positive"	2. 34. <u>7</u> .
Total number taken	43.
	-

The above summary shows that a considerable amount of work remains to be done in the matter of improving the milk supply generally, but the matter is one for steady endeavour and spectacular results are not expected.

The two "positive" results taken for Tuberculosis were followed up by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and two cows found to be suffering from the disease were slaughtered.

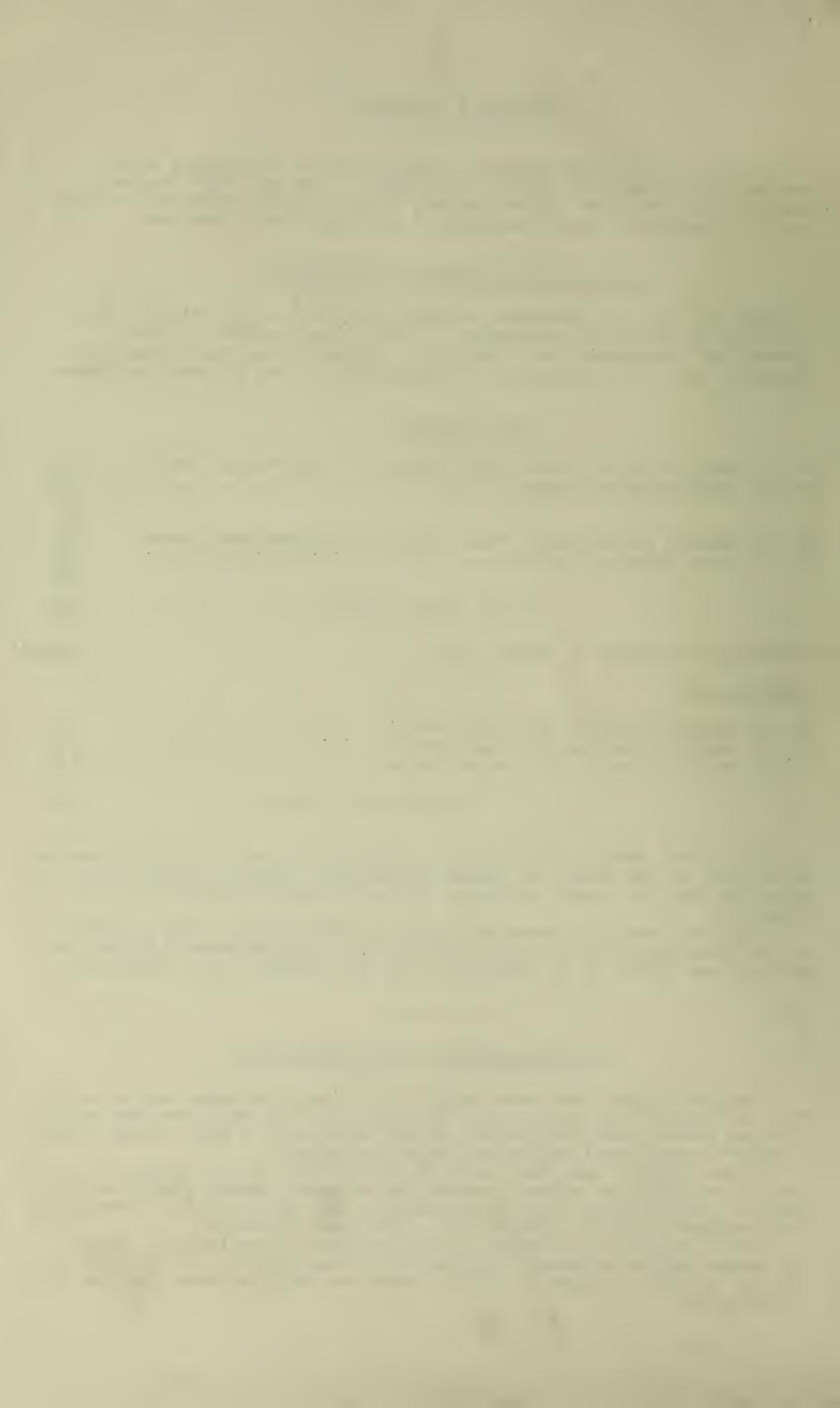
SLAUGHTERHOUSES & MEAT INSPECTION.

Regular visits have been paid to all slaughterhouses and as much meat as possible was inspected. My experience has been the same as in previous years, that the quality of the meat is of a high standard and a comparatively small amount had to be condemned.

Since the Bye-laws were adopted prohibiting the carrying of noxious or offensive matter through the streets, except during certain hours of the morning, very few complaints have been received concerning

the transport of hides & offal etc. from these premises.

Great vigilance is however still necessary, particularly during the summer months to ensure that as little annoyance as is possible is caused, as most of these slaughterhouses are badly situated in the centre of the town.



Number of Animals Slaughtered during the Year.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Totals.
January	68.	31.	299.	113.	511.
February	71.	36.	324.	129.	560.
March	83,	46。	358.	150.	637. x
April	64.	39 。	319.	113.	535.
May	66.	40.	299.	108.	513.
June	89.	53.	427.	132.	701. x
July	81.	55.	432.	112.	680.
August	87.	63.	506.	118.	774.
September	99.	58,	474.	134.	7 65. x
October	72.	39.	346.	102.	559.
November	72.	33,	350.	114.	569.
December	87.	35.	328.	194.	644. x.
		Apple 10 and 10			
	939,	528.	4462.	1519.	7448.

x = Five Week Month.

Meat & Offal Condemned.

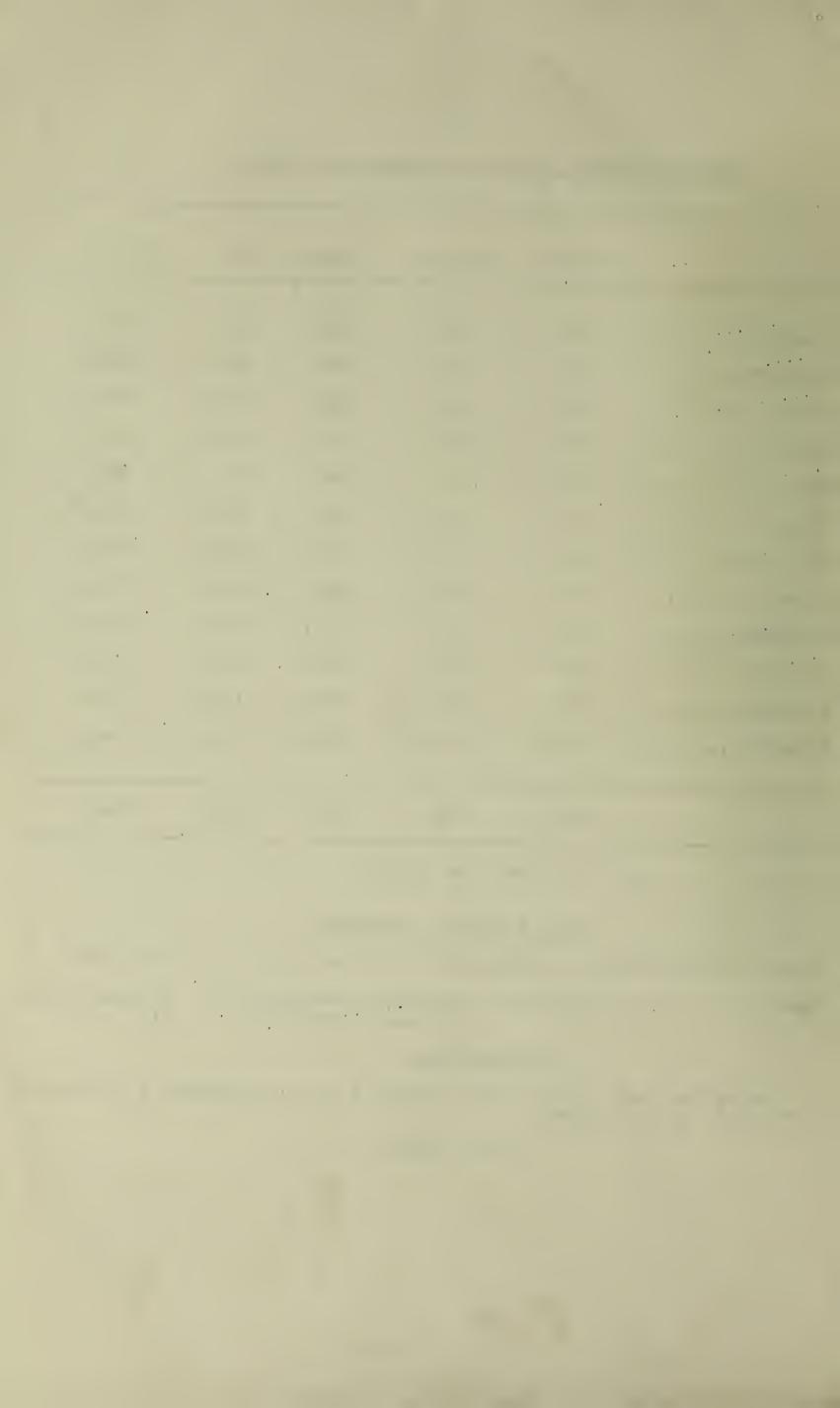
Number of whole carcases condemned:-----Nil.

Other Meat & Offal condemned:- (voluntarily surrendered) 10 cwts.56 lbs. (by Judicial Order)..... Nil.

Unsound Food.

During the year the following unsound food was condemned & voluntarily surrendered to be destroyed:-

18 lbs Lobster.

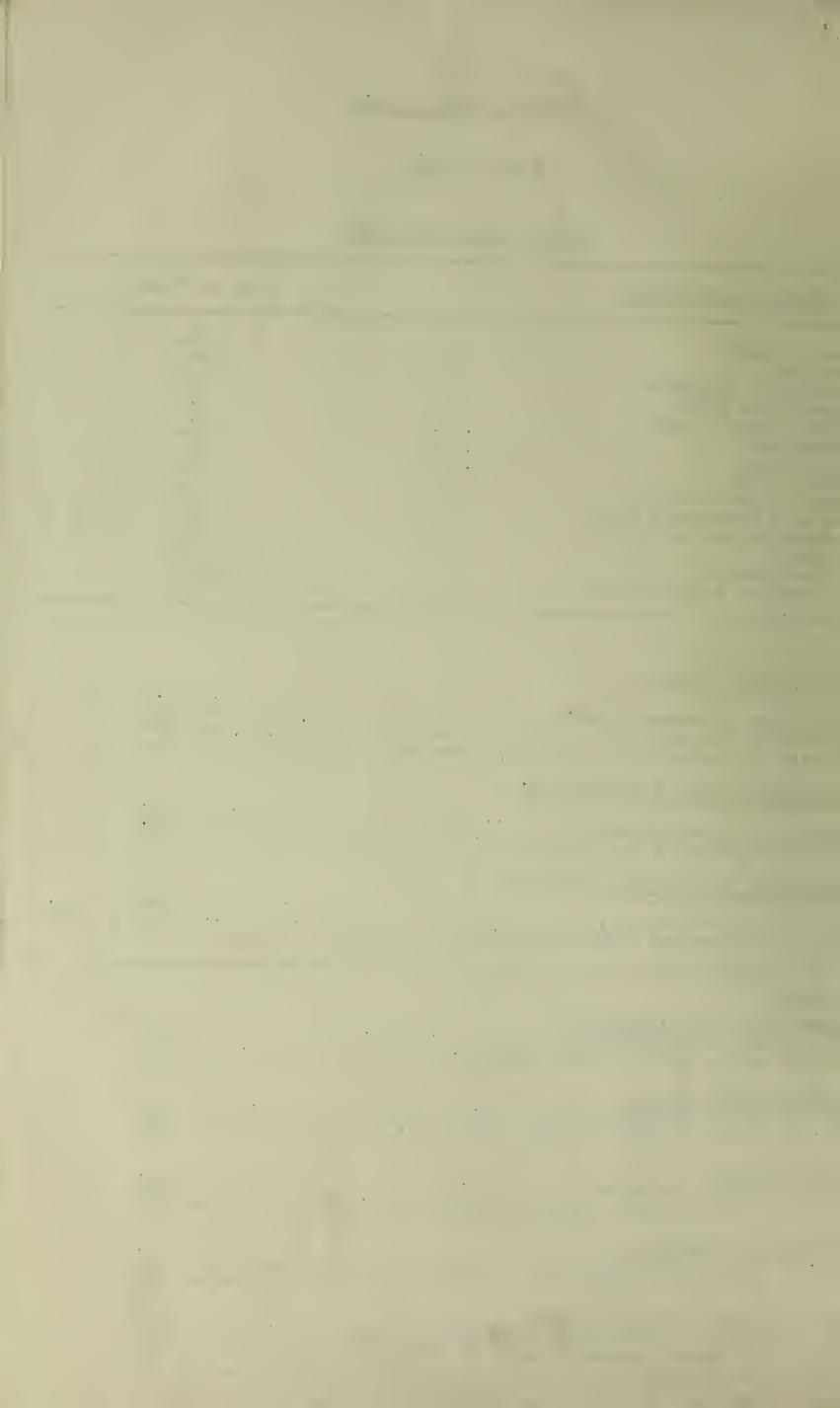


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TABLE 1.

VISITS, INTERVIEWS, ETC.

GENERAL SANITATION.	No. of Visits.
Water Supply Drainage Stables & Piggeries Fried Fish Shops Tents, vans & sheds Factories Bakehouses Rats & Mice Smoke O bservations Animals improperly kept. Accumulations or deposits Ashbins Miscellaneous Interviews & Appointments	39. 304. 9. 5. 46. 14. 12. 14. 4. 6. 18. 4. 32. 108.
Inquiries in cases of I.D	366.
COWSHEDS, MILK SHOPS & DAIRIES. Visits to Cowsheds	
HOUSING. Under Public Health Acts. No. of houses inspected	
Overcrowding. No. of houses inspected No. of visits to above houses Verminous premises. No. of houses inspected No. of visits Miscellaneous housing visits. No. of visits in connection with work in hand visits to Council houses (change of tenancy). Other miscellaneous visits.	19. 19. 1. 3. 141. 18.



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TABLE II.

Complaints received
No. of informal notices served
Number of complete new house drainage systems
Number of cases of I.D. removed to Hospital
SLAUGHTERHOUSES. No. of "Registered" Slaughterhouses
COWSHEDS, DAIRIES & MILK SHOPS. Number of cowkeepers or dairymen Registered at end of year
Number of dairies & cowsheds registered